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Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

RSC-01 INT-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 DODE-00 /040 W
---------- 045033
P 160001Z JAN 75
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8792
INFO CINCPAC REP GUAM PRIORITY UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0125

DEPT PASS INTERIOR DOTA AND OMSN

CINCREP FOR STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TQ, UN
SUBJ: UN OBSERVED PLEBISCITE IN MARINAS

REF: STATE 7037

1. LANGUAGE OF PLEBISCITE: AS DEPT IS AWARE, TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (TC) AT ITS LAST SESSION RECOMMENDED THAT PEOPLE OF MARINAS "HAVE POSSIBILITY OF CONSIDERING WHETHER THEY WISH TO PARTICIPATE WITH REST OF MICRONESIA IN FREE ASSOCIATION." THIS RECOMMENDATION HELPFUL TO US BECAUSE IT CLEAR INDICATION THAT TC NOT NECESSARILY OPPOSED TO SEPARATE STATUS FOR MARINAS. FROM STANDPOINT OF WINNING TC ENDORSEMENT OF PLEBISCITE AS MARINAS' "ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION", THEREFORE, IT DEFINITELY PREFERABLE FOR BALLOT TO PROVIDE VOTERS WITH CLEAR ALTERNATIVE BETWEEN A) COMMONWEALTH AND B) REMAINING WITH REST OF MICRONESIA.

2. A SIMPLE YES/NO FORMULATION ON THE BALLOT, AS DESIRED BY MARINAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, WOULD MAKE TC ACCEPTANCE MORE QUESTIONABLE. IF, HOWEVER, THIS OPTION IS CHOSEN, IT WOULD BE MOST IMPORTANT THAT UN VISITING MISSION BE ABLE TO OBESERVE OBJECTIVE AND EXTENSIVE POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
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WHICH A) OUTLINES ALL ALTERNATIVES CLEARLY: B) GIVES BOTH

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SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS OF COMMONWEALTH COMPACT EQUAL ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT RADIOS AND TO GOVERNMENT-OWNED TRANSPORTATION TO ISLANDS OTHER THAN SAIPAN: C) EXPLAINS CLEARLY THAT IF COMPACT APPROVED, MARIANAS WOULD BE GIVEN SEPARATE ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS, WHILE IF COMPACT IS REJECTED, THEY WOULD REMAIN ADMINISTRATIVELY WITH OTHER DISTRICTS IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR FREE ASSOCIATION. THE LATTER SHOULD BE STATED BY TT OFFICIALS BEFORE VOTE. OBVIOUSLY SIZE OF TOURNOUT AND PRECENTAGE OF VOTE FAVORING COMPACT WOULD ALSO HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON VIEWS OF VISITING MISSION.

3. TIMING OF PLEBISCITE: WHILE TC NOW SCHEDULED TO BEGIN NEXT SESSION MAY 27, LENGTH OF SESSION STILL IN DOUBT. (IF PAPAA NEW GUINEA GAINS INDEPENDENCE BY MAY, SESSION WILL DELA ONLY WITH TTPI AND CULD BE CONCLUDED IN TWO WEEKS.) IN ANY CASE, VISITING MISSION UNLIKELY TO REACH TTPI BEFORE EARLY JULY BECAUSE OF CUSTOMRY MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON AND HONOLULU EN ROUTE. FROM UN STANDPOINT THE LATER THE DATE THE BETTER.

4. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL APPROVAL OF VISITING MISSION: AS SOON AS MARINAS COMPACT SIGNED, WE WOULD CONSULT WITH THE UK, FRANCE AND AUSTRALIA ON FORTHCOMING PLEBISCITE AND SEEK THEIR COOPERATION IN HAVING THE NEXT PERIODIC VISITING MISSION OBSERVE PELBISCITE AS ONE OF ITS FUNCTIONS. EXACT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF VISITING MISSION MUST BE APPROVED BY TC IN FORM OF RESOLUTION. THEREFORE, BEFORE TC MEETS IN LATE MAY, WE WOULD NEGOTIATE INFOMALLY WITH IT WESTERN MEMBERS NECESSAY LANGUAGE AUTHORIZING MISSION OBSERVATION OF "ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION", AS WELL AS COMPOSITION AND TIMING OF MISSION.

5. TC AT ITS LAST SESSION WENT ON RECORD AS CALLING FOR SIMULATNEOUS HOLDING OF SEPARATE PLEBISCITES IN MARINAS AND OTHER DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA. TC ALSO ON RECORD AS RECOMMENDING THAT COM BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF MARINAS FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS. THEREFORE, IT MOST IMPORTANT THAT COM AT LEAST ACCEPT TACITLY SCHEDULING OF PLEBISCITE IN MARIANAS AND THAT COM REPS ATTENDING NEXT TC SESSION NOT LOBBY STRONGLY AGAINST PLEBISCITE AND UN OBSERVATON OF IT. DETERMINED COM OPPOSITION MIGHT FORCE TC AT NEXT SESSION TO GO ON RECORD URGING THAT PLEGISCITE NOT E HELD UNTIL CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS OVER FUTURE STATUS OF REST OF MICRONESIA AND TO BACK
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UP THIS RECOMMENDATION WITH REFUSAL TO AUTHORIZE OBSERVATION OF PLEBISCITE. IF MICRONESIAN POLITICIANS VOCIFEROUSLY TAKE ISSUE WITH MARIANAS PELBISCITE BEFORE OR DURING NEXT TC SESSION, WE ARE IN FOR CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY AT THE UN.

5. FROM UN STANDPOINT, COMMONWEALTH STATUS FOR MARIANAS WILL REPRESENT TWO HISTORIC "FIRSTS". IT WILL BE FIRST TIME THAT TRUST TERRITORY OR PORTION THEREOF HAS OPTED TO JOIN WITH

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ADMINISTERING POWER AS WELL AS FIRST ADDITION TO U.S. TERRITORY
SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF UN. FURTHERMORE, IN APPROVING COMMON-
WEALTH, TC IN EFFECT WILL BE APPROVING "FRAGMENTATION"
9* 547 5 TERRITORY, WHICH GOES COUNTER TO UN PRINCIPLE
OF PRESERVING UNITY OF DEPENDENT TERRITORIES. FOR ALL OF
THESE REASONS, IN ORDER TO SECURE EVENTUAL TC AND SECURITY
CUNCIL ENDORSEMENT OF MARIANAS NEW STATUS, IT MUST BE CLAR
BEYOND ANY DOUBT THAT PEOPLE OF MARIANAS, WHEN THEY VOTED,
CHOSE AMONG ALL OPTIONS IN EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-
DETERMINATION.
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